


12-10-2014

Post Obama: Discrimination toward African Americans Remains a Major Problem in America

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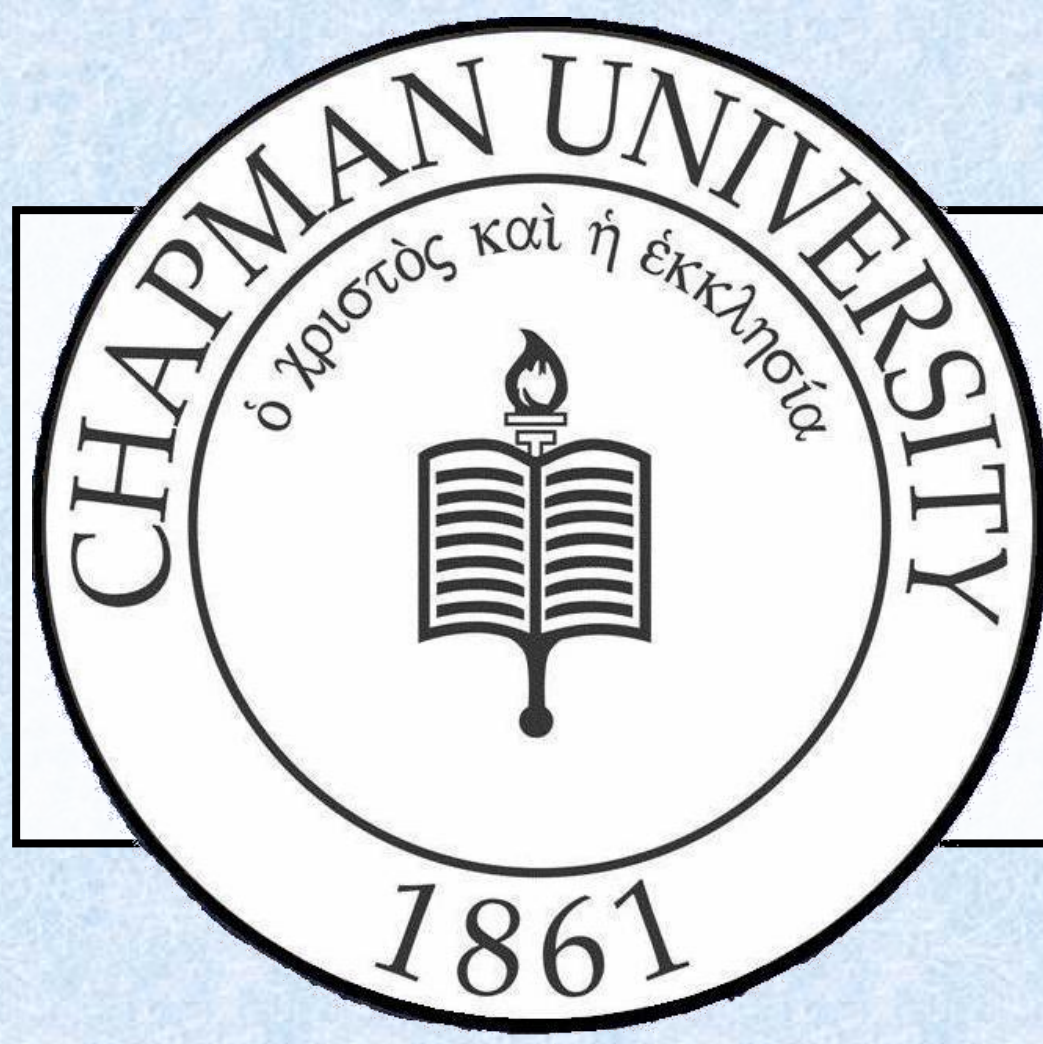
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Post Obama: Discrimination toward African Americans Remains a Major Problem in America

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Introduction to Research

- This study explores the majority of the public's feelings towards minorities and whether or not it has changed within recent years, especially since the election of Barack Obama.
- Although public opinion polls have shown a steady decline in traditional racism towards minorities, particularly African Americans, a new form of discrimination has emerged.
- This modern racism has made it difficult to tell whether or not discrimination towards minorities, specifically African Americans, has truly declined because it cannot be easily measured but it is believed that it is still present.
 - Old fashioned racism: Attitude that black population is biologically inferior to the white population.
 - Modern/symbolic racism: Consciously endorse egalitarian values, but display discriminatory attitudes in certain situations
- Contrary to popular belief, modern America still faces the issue of discrimination particularly against the black population, and the election of a black President has not yet dissipated the racial tension among majorities and minorities.

The Election of Obama

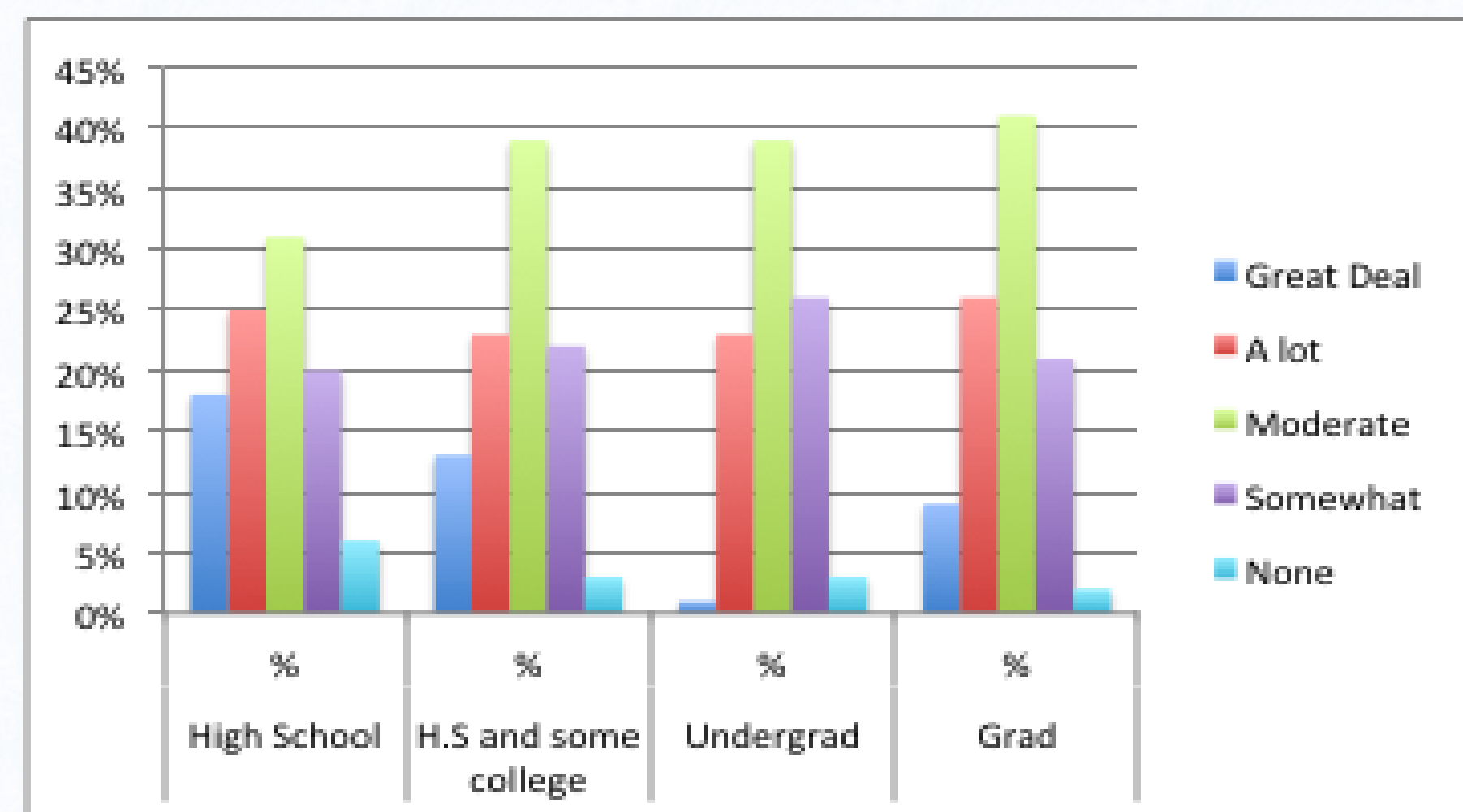
- Majority and Minority:
 - Only 44% of white voters voted for Obama in his first election.
 - The democratic share of white voters for Obama only increased by 2 points in 2008 since the election before. It was thought that there would be a dramatic increase in democratic white voters because of many issues, including:
 - A poor economy and the war in Iraq. McCain was also seen as weaker candidate, with no help of his unpopular choice of Sarah Palin as his running mate.
 - Second largest factor that influenced voter choice was on the basis of race.
 - Democrats had low racial resentment scores during the 2008 campaign while republicans had a high score. Moderates and independents tended to be swing votes. Result: Party identification is a strong predictor of voting behavior based on race.

Hypotheses:

- H 1. The higher amount of education an individual has, the more likely they will believe that minorities are being discriminated against.
- H 2: The more conservative the individual is, the more likely they will believe that minorities do not face discrimination.
- H 3. The older the individual, the less likely they will believe that minorities are being discriminated against.

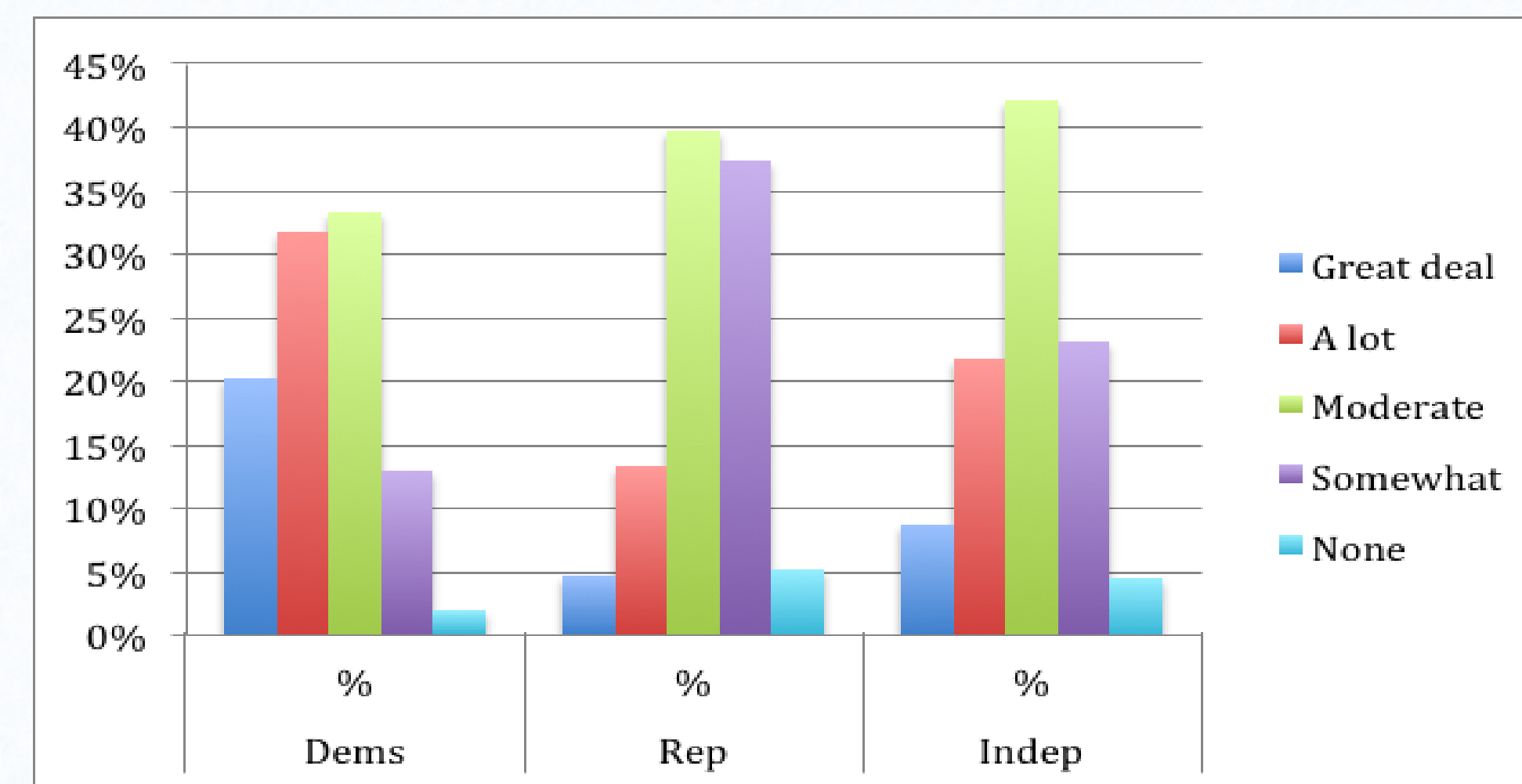
Data: Cross Tabulation:

H 1: Education



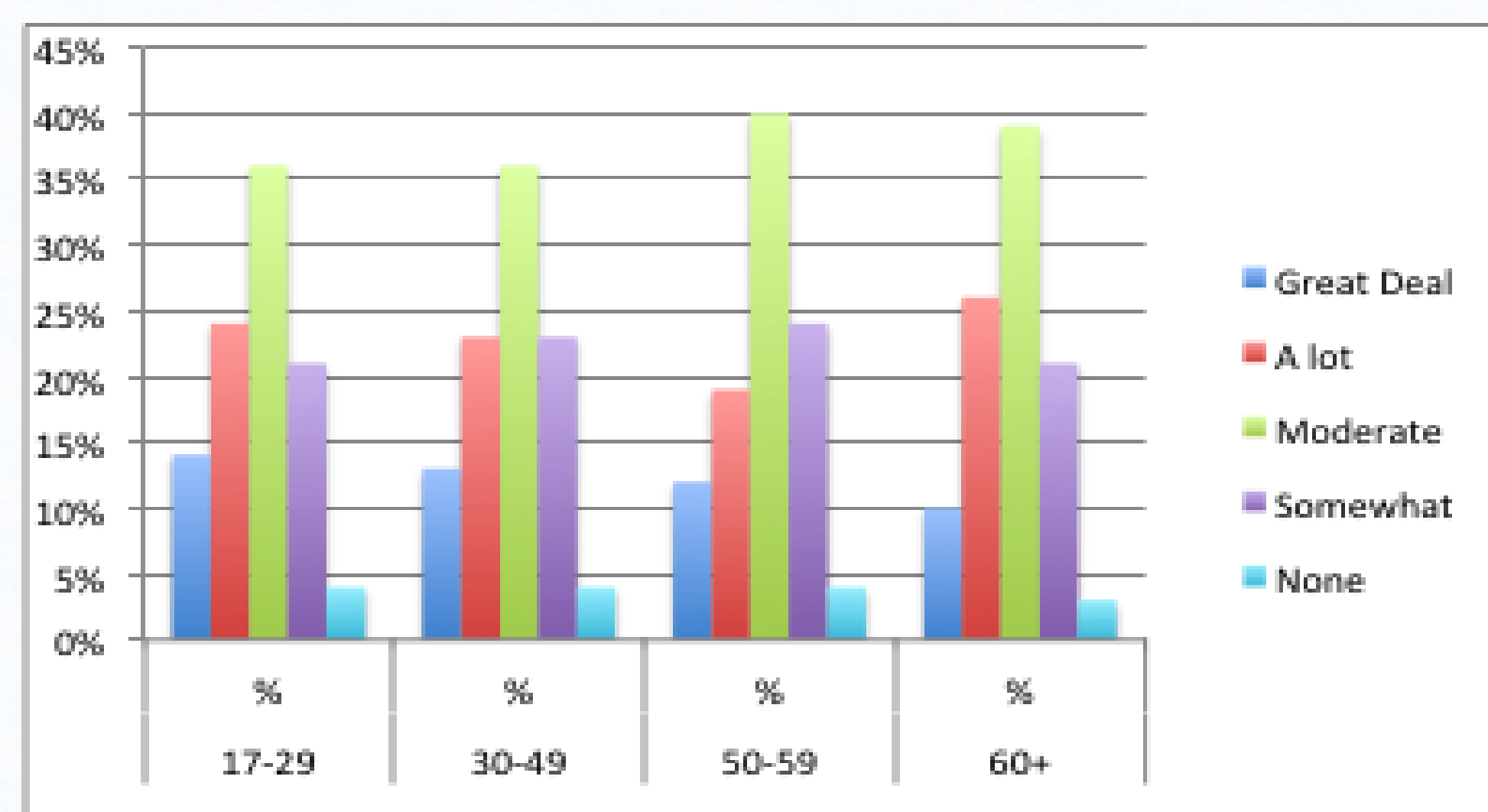
		Great Deal	A lot	Moderate	Somewhat	None
High School	#	95	140	176	113	36
High School	%	18%	25%	31%	20%	6%
H.S and some college	#	407	720	1220	700	114
H.S and some college	%	13%	23%	39%	22%	3%
Undergrad	#	104	238	401	269	28
Undergrad	%	1%	23%	39%	26%	3%
Grad	#	63	173	272	141	15
Grad	%	9%	26%	41%	21%	2%

H 2: Party Identification

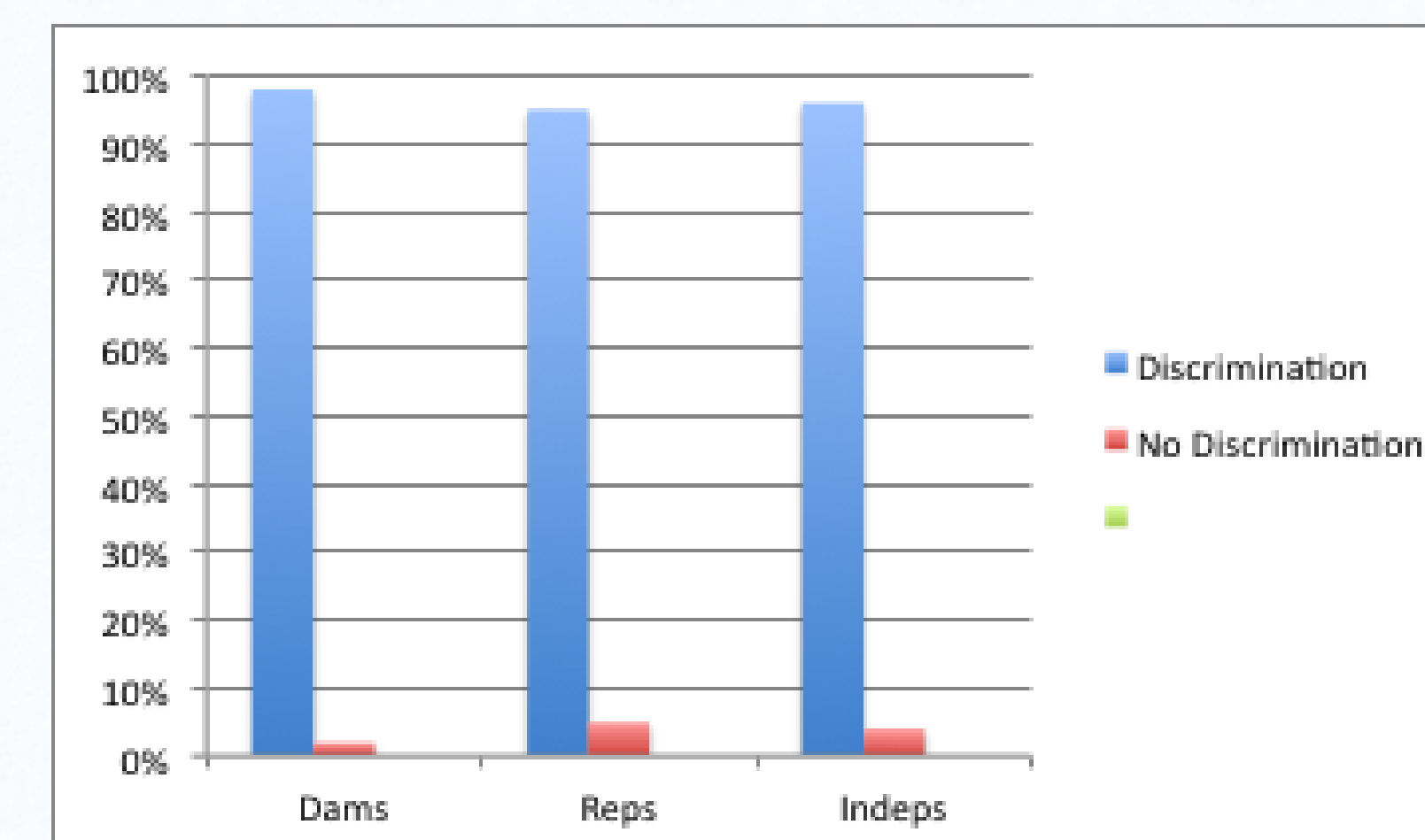


		Great deal	A lot	Moderate	Somewhat	None
Dems	#	440	695	726	283	43
Dems	%	20%	32%	33%	13%	2%
Rep	#	59	171	511	481	65
Rep	%	5%	13%	40%	37%	5%
Indep	#	149	372	719	396	75
Indep	%	9%	22%	42%	23%	4%

H 3: Age



		Great Deal	A lot	Moderate	Somewhat	None
17-29	#	122	204	310	180	34
17-29	%	14%	24%	36%	21%	4%
30-49	#	224	378	611	398	65
30-49	%	13%	23%	36%	23%	4%
50-59	#	146	225	477	291	45
50-59	%	12%	19%	40%	24%	4%
60+	#	175	434	657	355	52
60+	%	10%	26%	39%	21%	3%



	Dems	Reps	Indeps
Discriminatic	98%	95%	96%
No Discrimin	2%	5%	4%

Table Interpretation

- The tables measure education level, party identification, and age to the respondent's attitude towards minorities and the level to which they are discriminated against within society. This reveals their overall attitudes towards minorities in general. Those who believe that minorities are highly discriminated within society are less likely to be racist.
- The tables represent the overall percentage instead of the total number of people who answered the questions. This gives an accurate depiction of the attitudes, instead of a skewed graph based on the number of people who answered each question only.

Findings

H 1: Education

While the results show that there are slight differences within each level of education, the overall finding is that there does not seem to be a significant difference of attitudes among the different groups. All groups have a decent amount of belief that minorities are discriminated against. Those with a high school diploma are the only ones that stand out dramatically in their belief that minorities are discriminated against a great deal, especially when comparing to those with an undergraduate degree.

H 2: Party Identification

Those who identified themselves as democrats had a difference of a 15 point margin from republicans when it came to their belief that minorities are being discriminated against a great deal. Independents prove to be more of the swing opinion in terms of minorities. Overall, democrats have the highest amount of individuals who believe minorities are discriminated against.

H 3: Age

Age is somewhat similar to the findings of education in that among all different age groups, all show that they have some belief that minorities are discriminated against. However, the youngest age group had the highest score in terms of believing that minorities are discriminated a great deal.

Conclusions

- Overall, people generally seem to be aware of racial discrimination. Groups such as democrats or younger generations tend to believe that minorities are discriminated against a great deal. However, even groups that were expected to show little belief in this actually proved to be different.
- No matter what group the individual was associated with, the vast majority believe that discrimination exists.
- People are aware of minorities and racism, but those who scored discrimination against minorities as some or none are more likely to be racist.
- Thus, racism still exists and perhaps has increased within recent years especially since election. This modern racism is subtle and less obvious.

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